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## COLONEL WILLIAM J. WYATT.

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Colonel William J. Wyatt, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, native born residents of Morgan county and a veteran of two wars, passed away at his home in Franklin, Friday, October 18, at the age of 87 years.

William J. Wyatt was born on a farm five miles southeast of Jacksonville, October 28, 1825, and was a son of John and Rebecca Wyatt, who came to Illinois from Missouri. Mr. Wyatt, the father, was a farmer and stock raiser and an old line Democrat, having served two terms in the Illinois State Legislature, when the State capital was located at Vandalia. He held a commission as lieutenant during the Black Hawk war and died January 6, 1849. His wife passed away in August, 1866.

Wm. J. Wyatt, who spent practically his entire life in this county, obtained his education in the subscription schools of the county, but was compelled to remain at home and manage his father's farm, as he was away from home a great deal of the time looking after his stock interests. On October 29, 1848, Colonel Wyatt was married to Mrs. Eliza A. Williams, who died February 12, 1892. The colonel was also preceded in death by a son and a daughter. He was married a second time to Sallie Dodd, of Waverly, a daughter of Elijah Dodd, who, with one son, George H. Wyatt, of this county, survive. Colonel Wyatt was a member of Hicks Lodge No. 93, of Waverly, and on April 8, 1853, he became a charter member of Franklin Lodge No. 121, I. O. O. F., and was also a member of Ridgley Encampment No. 9, of Jacksonville. The deceased was instrumental in securing a charter for a Rebekah lodge at Franklin and on several occasions he served as a representative to the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the State. He was also actively interested in assisting to promote several public service enterprises, among them being the Jacksonville, Louisville &

St. Louis Railroad, which was built mainly by M. P. Ayers, now deceased. Mr. Wyatt secured a vote for the issue of bonds along the route for the construction of this road. He was a member of the Methodist church.

Colonel Wyatt had a record for war service that is equalled by few in his community. Under Governor Ford, in 1845-46, he served in the State militia which was detailed to keep peace among the Mormons and anti-Mormon element in Carthage, serving as a first lieutenant of a mounted infantry and remaining in winter quarters in that city.

With the consent of his father he left home on March 14, 1846, and on the thirtieth of the following May, he enlisted in Company G of the regiment commanded by Colonel John J. Hardin, for service in the Mexican war. This regiment enjoyed the distinction of being the first of any kind ever organized in Illinois for a national war. Mr. Wyatt was elected captain of his company and early in June the regiment was mustered in at Alton. The destination of the regiment was thought to be Chihuahua, but they were ordered to Monclovia, and after five weeks to Parras, where General John B. Wool, in command of that division of the army, received orders from General Taylor to march on to Buena Vista Pass and meet the Mexican army under Santa Anna. At this historic battle, in which the Americans overcame overwhelming odds, Col. Wyatt and his company took an important part. They were in the right wing of the American troops and supported Captain Washington's battery to the pass, the key to the battle ground, and although the Americans' loss in killed and wounded was heavy, not a man under Colonel Wyatt was lost. In the number of killed were eleven commissioned officers of the American army, four of whom were colonels, among them Colonel Hardin. Colonel Wyatt, who was an intimate friend of Col. Hardin, in company with his orderly sergeant and others, brought in the lifeless remains from the battlefield and the body first found resting place in Mexican soil, but when the service was over the remains were brought to Jacksonville and buried in the Jacksonville cemetery.

In 1847, Colonel Wyatt was honorably discharged at Camargo, Mexico, and returned to his home, making the trip by way of the Gulf of Mexico and New Orleans. He engaged in the cattle business

with his father, but when the Civil war broke out he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 101 regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, by Governor Yates. This regiment was under command of Colonel Fox and when the men arrived at Cairo, Ill., Colonel Wyatt became ill, but he remained with his command. He was taken a prisoner by the Confederates at Holly Springs, Miss., while ill there and was taken to Benton Barracks with a number of paroled prisoners and placed in charge of them. On account of physical disability he was honorably discharged from the service in May, 1863.

Colonel Wyatt, was ill for some time after returning home, but as soon as his health permitted he resumed the business of farmer and stock raiser and continued for a number of years. Of late years, however, he has been too feeble to engage in active farming and has been residing in Franklin.

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#### DEATH OF REV. CHARLES G. SNOW.

Charles G. Snow, a minister and educator of note in central Illinois, died at his home at Jacksonville, Ills., Monday, July 22, 1912, at the age of ninety-four years and six months. Rev. Snow was pastor of the local Methodist Episcopal Church there for six years, and until he was eighty years old was actively engaged in teaching in the public schools in Morgan, Mason, Macoupin, Greene and Scott counties.